

## Maricopa County News Release

Department of Public Health 1825/45 E. Roosevelt St. Phoenix, AZ 85006 Phone: 602-506-6900 Fax: 602-506-6885 www.maricopa.gov/public\_health/ For additional information: Doug Hauth, Public Information Officer, 602-506-4926

Emily Poland, Public Information Specialist, 602-506-6607

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## Public Health co-sponsors flu partnership meeting

(Phoenix) – The Maricopa County Department of Public Health sponsored a public/private partnership meeting with support from Aventis Pasteur Wed. Oct. 13, 2004 for healthcare, Fire, EMS, education and private sector partners to share flu prevention and infection control efforts.

"The public health system is working closely with the medical and private sector community to ensure that those most at risk receive the vaccine," said Dr. Robert D. Jones, M.D., Director for the Bio-Defense Preparedness and Response Division of Public Health. "It is through the strength of our partnerships with the healthcare, Fire, EMS, education and private sectors that will enable the MCDPH to effectively address the current flu vaccine shortage in our valley."

Representatives from Aventis presented the latest information on how they are working with the CDC to direct the remaining flu vaccine to those at greatest risk.

MCDPH Epidemiologist Andrew Edmonds also spoke about the surveillance plan for the current flu season that will provide important information about the 2004-2005 flu season and allow for early additional interventions if they are needed.

Residents are asked to help do their part by taking the precautions necessary to minimize your and your family's chances of contracting the flu this season. Please cover your cough, wash your hands, stay at home if you're ill, and remember only get a flu shot if you are at high risk for the flu.

For more information, go to www.maricopa.gov/flu on flu prevention and information. Contact Community Information Referral at 602-263-8856 or at www.cir.org for information on where to get a flu shot.

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